



## Kentucky Department of Parks News Release

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Kentucky Battlefield to Play Host to National Civil War Reenactment *Thousands Expected at Perryville in October 2006*

FRANKFORT, Ky. – In October, thousands of soldiers will descend upon Perryville Battlefield State Park in Perryville, Ky., wearing blue or gray and equipped with muskets and cannons, just as they did in 1862.

But their purpose this time will be to educate and entertain -- not to seize property for their respective armies.

More than a century ago, 40,000 Union and Confederate soldiers clashed at Perryville. More than 7,500 were killed or wounded.

Each year, hundreds of Civil War buffs recreate the bloody Kentucky battle, which some historians point to as a turning point in the Civil War. But 2006 will be a special year. The Civil War reenactment community has chosen Perryville as a "national" event. As a result, the reenactment on Oct. 6-8, 2006, is expected to draw thousands of participants and tens of thousands of spectators.

This is a major logistical undertaking that involves hundreds of volunteers and months of planning to be successful. Emergency medical personnel will be needed, as will a veterinarian to treat animals. During their brief stay, participants are expected to use 60 cords of firewood for heating and cooking.

Perryville officials know the drill, having previously hosted a national event in 2002.

An estimated 24,500 people attended then, including participants from at least 36 states and four foreign countries. Much of the same is expected in 2006, meaning the population of Boyle County will virtually double over night.

All of those visitors will be renting hotel rooms, buying gas, eating out, and shopping, according to Mary Quinn K. Ramer, executive director of the Danville-Boyle County Convention and Visitors Bureau. She estimates the economic impact to the community to be \$75 per adult, per day or more.

"We are pleased to be the host site for the 2006 National Reenactment," Ramer said.

"We are looking forward to showcasing Perryville's unique history to thousands of reenactors and spectators during the event."

The Perryville battle is popular with the public because of the living history lesson. Reenactors appreciate Perryville because it remains unspoiled, much as it would have appeared to its original combatants. In stark contrast, many Civil War battlefields have yielded to development over the years.

"I like the idea of being a Kentuckian and having Perryville here," said Bill Baas, a longtime Union reenactor, who lives in nearby Danville, Ky. "It is one of a few battlefield sites in the country that is untouched, that hasn't been desecrated or modernized or built upon. It means a great deal for any reenactor to be able see the site as the soldiers saw it in 1862. There are very few places to do that."

"It gets national attention to Perryville, to Kentucky, and to reenacting as a hobby," he added, "which is good for all of us."

There is one other benefit, too. All proceeds raised from reenactor fees will go to the [Perryville Battlefield Preservation Association](#) for preserving the battlefield. The park

has grown significantly over the years thanks largely to the group's efforts. It now encompasses about 550 acres, from about 100 acres.

For more information specific to the Perryville reenactment, visit <http://www.perryvillereenactment.org/>. Or, for visitors' information, go to [www.danvillekentucky.com](http://www.danvillekentucky.com)

The Kentucky State Park System is composed of 52 state parks plus an interstate park shared with Virginia. The Department of Parks, an agency of the Commerce Cabinet, operates 17 resort parks with lodges -- more than any other state. Each year, Kentucky parks draw 7 million visitors and contribute \$317 million to the economy. For more information on Kentucky parks, visit our Web site at <http://www.parks.ky.gov>



Confederate and Union reenactors clash during an earlier battle at the Perryville Battlefield State Park in Perryville, Ky.